

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

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TOPOL 11

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)
SUBJECT: FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS BRIEFINGS-NOVEMBER 12, 1973

STATE

1. COMMON MARKET DECLARATION--MR. VEST ANNOUNCED THAT MR. STOESSEL, ACCCOMPANIED BY HELMUT SONNENFELDT, IS LEAVING TONIGHT FOR EUROPE PRINCIPALLY TO ATTEND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ON NOVEMBER 14 IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON A US-EC DECLARATION. WHEN ASKED, VEST REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION.

2. NATO AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS--VEST CHARACTERIZED THE SUBSTANCE OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS AS FRANK EXCHANGES WHICH LED TO BOTH SIDES THOROUGHLY RE-EXAMINING BOTH GOVERNMENTAL MOTIVATIONS AND ALLIANCE PROCEDURES. HE SUBSEQUENTLY REMARKED THAT THE US PERCEIVED THE CRISIS IN THE CONTEXT OF STRATEGIC CONCERNs WHILE THE EUROPEANS LOOKED AT IT GEOGRAPHICALLY. FROM THOSE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, HE SAID, WE HAVE MOVED TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

3. SECRETARY'S TRIP--VEST STATED HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD TRAVEL TO SEOUL FROM PEKING SINCE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FINAL SCHEDULE WOULD COME FROM THE PARTY. HE WOULD NOT

COMMENT ON ANY OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TRIP.

WHITE HOUSE

1. TODAY'S WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING WAS DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC CONCERNs.
2. PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO TITO--WHILE NOT QUARRELING WITH THEM, THE WHITE HOUSE IS NOT PLANNING TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT A LETTER TO YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HOWEVER, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMEN WILL REMIND THE PRESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

1. MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS--THIS MORNING DOD SPOKESMAN JERRY FRIEDHEIM STATED THAT THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET FLEET QUOTE IS NOW IN THE 80'S, DOWN FROM THE 90'S OF LAST WEEK, END QUOTE AND THAT BOTH COMBAT AND SUPPORT SHIPS HAVE LEFT THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE SIXTH FLEET.
2. COMIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN--QUERIED WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CLOSE COMIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN, FRIEDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS MATTER QUOTE CAME UP A FEW WEEKS AGO, END QUOTE BUT THAT IT WAS QUOTE SOMETHING STATE WAS KEEPING TRACK OF. END QUOTE. LATER HE MENTIONED THAT THE DESTROYER USS ADAMS (ONE OF THE VESSELS IN COMIDEASTFOR) HAD BEEN OPERATING IN AND OUT OF THE RED SEA RECENTLY.
3. RESUPPLY EFFORTS--FRIEDHEIM STATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO REPORT ON THE US SEALIFT TO ISRAEL. US SUPPLY FLIGHTS OVER THE WEEKEND AVERAGED 15 DAILY. THE TOTAL SOVIET RESUPPLY TONNAGE HAD NOT CHANGED MARKEDLY FROM THE 100,000 TON FIGURE MENTIONED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY LAST WEEK.

DOD ARRANGED FOR FIVE NEWSMEN TO ACCOMPANY A C-5A
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SUPPLY FLIGHT TO ISRAEL THIS MORNING. REGARDING THE AZORES ASPECT OF THE RESUPPLY EFFORT, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WILL NOT GO BEYOND RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER.

4. OTHER NAVAL ACTIVITY--FRIEDHEIM STATED THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS HANCOCK WAS STILL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ASKED WHETHER EGYPTIAN DESTROYERS WERE STILL IN THE BAB EL-

MANDAB, HE REPLIED HE HAD QUOTE SEEN NOTHING NEW ON THAT.
END QUOTE.

5. MEDICAL EVACUATION FROM THE USSR--AT THE REQUEST OF THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND WITH DIPLOMATIC
CLEARANCES, A USAF MEDEVAC AIRCRAFT IS FLYING FROM GERMANY
DOD HAS ASKED THAT STATE MAKE AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT

AFTER THE EVACUATION IS COMPLETED. RUSH

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